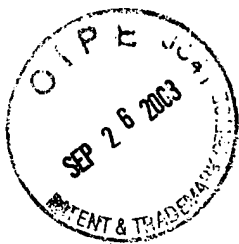


2837



# INNOVATIVE MATERIALS, INC.

C/O WALTER SMALL  
930 FIFTH AVENUE • SUITE 5E  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021  
PHONE: (212) 439-6999 • FAX: (212) 439-9338

September 24, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304-1450

Dear Sir:

In re Patent Application for:  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT STRINGS WITH POLYMER TREATED SURFACE  
Filed: November 26, 2001  
Serial No.: 10/002789 Art Unit: 2837 Examiner: FLETCHER, Marlon T.

As correspondent of record, I am writing this letter to make you aware of the questionable activities associated with the above patent application.

Enclosed please find copies of our letter to the potential users of our product in the musical string industry, together with *Patent Assignment Abstract of Title* and the copy of letter to Larry J. Guffey, Esq.

Larry J. Guffey attempted to become the correspondent in the matter of this patent application, and he was unauthorized to do so. The letter written to potential customers of our polymer coating process (the subject of the patent application we own) are self explanatory, and together with the Mr. Guffey's unauthorized attempt to substitute himself as correspondent, should provide the USPTO with sufficient reason to believe that these unauthorized activities warrant our investigation.

Consequently, we respectfully request that additional time be given us in order to further investigate the unauthorized activities and to find and employ legal counsel and engineers skilled in vapor deposition, to respond to examiner Fletcher's final objections. We are, however, unable to determine exactly how much of an extension is needed at this time.

Please add this letter and enclosures to our folder, and I will contact the examiner, concerning the extension of time desired.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Walter Small

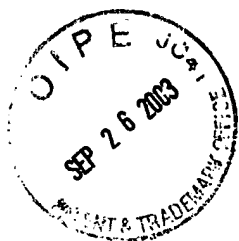
President

Enclosures: Letters to: Dave Timmons and Jim Colella, Gibson Strings;  
Ben A. Cole and Russ McFee, G.H.S. Corporation; Jim D'Addario,  
J. D'Addario & Company; Tim Teel and Ric Forero, The Martin Guitar  
Company; Larry J. Guffey, Esq.; IMI's *Patent Assignment Abstract of Title*

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## INNOVATIVE MATERIALS, INC.

C/O WALTER SMALL  
930 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 5E  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021  
PHONE: (212) 439-6999 FAX: (212) 439-9338

November 15, 2002

Larry J. Guffey, Esq.  
World Trade Center, Suite 1800  
401 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Mr. Guffey:

Re: United States Patent Application 10/002,789

Notification has reached me from counsel that you have been retained to take over administration of United States Patent Application 10/002,789, filed 1/31/01.

Please be advised that Innovative Materials, Inc., a publicly owned company, is currently the rightful owner of patent application 10/002,789, and has neither desired your services to administer this patent filing nor authorized you to represent Innovative Materials, Inc. in administering the filing with the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Please also be advised that no other individual(s) or business entity other than Innovative Materials, Inc. can claim ownership of any materials covered in patent application 10/002,789, or attempt to conduct any business, legal or otherwise, involving this patent application by representing themselves as owner of materials comprising patent application 10/002,789.

At this time, Innovative Materials, Inc. has notified only the US Patent and Trademark Office of this possible misrepresentation. Further, we are confident that the USPTO's recorded assignment of this patent application from Advanced Surface Engineering, Inc. (ASE) to Innovative Materials, Inc. on 5/22/02, and the material claimed therein, plus other pertinent documentation,\* will affirm Innovative Materials, Inc.'s legal ownership of the patent application.

It is my hope that you will respond accordingly to resolve this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Walter Small  
President

\*Enclosures: (6)  
cc: US Patent and Trademark Office

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# INNOVATIVE MATERIALS, INC.

C/O WALTER SMALL  
930 FIFTH AVENUE • SUITE 5E  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021  
PHONE: (212) 439-6999 • FAX: (212) 439-9338

September 23, 2003

Tim Teel  
The Martin Guitar Company  
C.F. Martin & Co., Inc.  
510 Sycamore Street  
P. O. Box 329  
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18054-0329

Dear Tim:

It has come to our attention that an ex-employee of Advanced Surface Engineering, Inc. (ASE), a wholly owned subsidiary of Innovative Materials Inc. (IMI), has been offering a vapor-deposited polymer string coating process under the firm name of *Surface Engineering Associates*, without the approval of the owner of this process.

This process, and the coating produced by it, is the exclusive property of IMI. The process was developed on a CHA PVD system purchased by IMI or ASE in 1996, together with a Varian PVD system purchased shortly thereafter. Both were used in the development and production of various types of polymer and metallic coatings. The process is covered in patent application # 10/002,789 that was filed 11/26/01, and names Todd Schlesinger as inventor of the process. However, the Patent Assignment Abstract of Title (copy enclosed) names Innovative Materials, Inc. as the owner of the process, as was its wholly owned subsidiary ASE.

The United States Patent Office has initially approved a portion of IMI's claims and IMI is presently developing a response for the balance of the patent issues. IMI believes, as do many in the industry, that it stands to have the balance of its claims expanded substantially in the near future.

In light of these facts, we welcome your investigation of IMI's patent application #10/002,789, and the ownership of same, in order to save your possibly spending fruitless time and energy in pursuing the vapor-deposited polymer coating covered in the patent application indicated above.

We are writing you not only to alert you to the above unauthorized offer but to inform you that the conditional patent, including various legally binding nondisclosure agreements concerning the process that were executed between our owner corporation and many major string manufacturers, are for sale. The owner, IMI, a firm that has a tax loss carry forward of approximately seven million dollars (\$7,000,000.00), is also for sale. They can be purchased separately or as a unit.

Please give the above your immediate consideration. If there is any interest in purchasing the process, patent and/or the corporation, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Time is of the essence.

Yours truly,

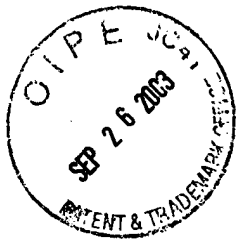
Walter Small  
President

Encl: Patent Assignment Abstract of Title

cc: Ric Forero

cc: USPO

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# INNOVATIVE MATERIALS, INC.

C/O WALTER SMALL  
930 FIFTH AVENUE • SUITE 5E  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021  
PHONE: (212) 439-6999 • FAX: (212) 439-9338

September 23, 2003

Jim D'Addario, President  
J. D'Addario & Company, Inc.  
Post Office Box 290  
Farmingdale, New York 11735

Dear Jim:

It has come to our attention that an ex-employee of Advanced Surface Engineering, Inc. (ASE), a wholly owned subsidiary of Innovative Materials Inc. (IMI), has been offering a vapor-deposited polymer string coating process under the firm name of *Surface Engineering Associates*, without the approval of the owner of this process.

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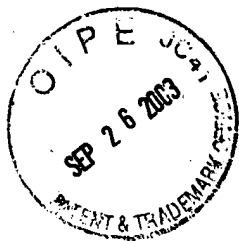
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Yours truly,

Walter Small  
President

Encl: Patent Assignment Abstract of Title  
cc: USPO

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C/O WALTER SMALL  
930 FIFTH AVENUE • SUITE 5E  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021  
PHONE: (212) 439-6999 • FAX: (212) 439-9338

September 24, 2003

Dave Timmons, Production Manager  
Gibson Strings  
1150 Bowes Road  
Elgin, Illinois 60123

Dear Dave:

It has come to our attention that an ex-employee of Advanced Surface Engineering, Inc.(ASE), a wholly owned subsidiary of Innovative Materials Inc. (IMI), has been offering a vapor-deposited polymer string coating process under the firm name of *Surface Engineering Associates*, without the approval of the owner of this process.

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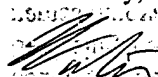
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I assume that you have already spoken with Jim Colella of Epiphone, who wrote us that our technology was outstanding.

Please give the above your immediate consideration. If there is any interest in purchasing the process, patent and/or the corporation, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Time is of the essence.

Yours truly,

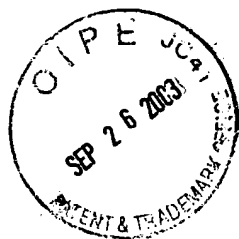
  
Walter Small  
President

Encl: Patent Assignment Abstract of Title  
cc: Jim Colella, Epiphone Division  
cc: USPTO

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C/O WALTER SMALL  
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PHONE: (212) 439-6999 • FAX: (212) 439-9338

September 24, 2003

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Ben A. Cole, National Sales Manager  
G.H.S. Corporation  
2813 Wilber Avenue  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49015

Dear Ben:

It has come to our attention that an ex-employee of Advanced Surface Engineering, Inc. (ASE), a wholly owned subsidiary of Innovative Materials Inc. (IMI), has been offering a vapor-deposited polymer string coating process under the firm name of *Surface Engineering Associates*, without the approval of the owner of this process.

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Your satisfaction with our unique vapor-deposited string technology was evidenced by your willingness to enter into a contract for our product this past year.

Please give the above your immediate consideration. If there is any interest in purchasing the process, patent and/or the corporation, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Time is of the essence.

Yours truly,

Walter Small  
President  
Encl: Patent Assignment Abstract of Title  
cc: Russ McFee, President  
cc: USPTO



## Patent Assignment Abstract of Title

**Total Assignments:**

**Applicati n #:** 10002789

**Filing Dt:** 11/26/2001

**Patent #:** NONE

**Issue Dt:**

**PCT #:** NONE

**Publicati n #:** NONE

**Pub Dt:**

**Inventor:** Todd Evan Schlesinger

**Title:** Musical instrument strings with polymer treated surface

**Assignment:** 1

**Reel/Frame:** 012978/0597

**Received:**  
06/14/2002

**Recorded:**  
06/06/2002

**Mailed:**  
08/13/2002

**Pages:** 2

**Conveyance:** ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNORS INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

**Assignor:** ADVANCED SURFACE ENGINEERING, INC.

**Exec Dt:** 05/22/2002

**Assignee:** INNOVATIVE MATERIALS, INC.

930 FIFTH AVE - SUITE 5E

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

**Correspondent:** MAX STUL OPPENHEIMER

PO BOX 50

STEVENSON, MD 21153

Search Results as of: 10/11/2002 2:01:53 P.M.

If you have any comments or questions concerning the data displayed, contact OPR / Assignments at 703-308-9723  
Web interface last modified: Oct. 5, 2002

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